

IOWA FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS

OVERVIEW

The Iowa livestock industry contributes more than \$13 billion to the state's economy. The industry employs thousands of Iowans, adds value to Iowa-grown corn and soybeans, and helps support related sectors such as transportation and energy.

Animal diseases are an ever-present threat to the Iowa animal industry. In 2015, for example, 77 Iowa farms and backyard poultry flocks were devastated by the outbreak of High Path Avian Influenza. This was the largest animal disease outbreak in U.S. history. The threat of this and other foreign animal diseases such as African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease persist.

IMPACT

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's veterinarians and livestock inspectors are on the front lines of efforts to work with industry and the USDA to prevent, prepare and respond to a foreign animal disease outbreak. With funding support from the legislature, much progress has been made in recent years, including:

- Collaboration with industry, USDA and university resources to review and refine foreign animal disease response plans.
- Participation in a functional exercise focused on African Swine Fever with large pork production states.
- Launch of IowaFAD, a program to build and train a network of accredited veterinarians to help respond quickly and effectively in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.
- Hosting a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination Strategy Table Top Exercise. Iowa is the first state in the country to pilot this program, along with USDA, industry, and the Center for Food Security.
- Developing biosecurity and cleaning and disinfection training resources for Iowa livestock producers.
- Serving on the USDA African Swine Fever Task Force working group to develop resources and work through possible scenarios that African Swine Fever would present.
- Representing Iowa on the U.S. Animal Health swine committee to discuss permitting and testing requirements that would come with an outbreak of African Swine Fever.
- Creating exhibition plans in the case of a foreign animal disease response with industry stakeholders which will lead to a table top exercise.

GOING FORWARD

Continued and increased funding from the Iowa legislature would support additional veterinarian-led foreign animal disease preparedness initiatives with universities and other partners, advanced technology to prepare for more effective future responses to outbreaks that may occur, and expanded interfacing with industry groups and producers.